



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

NOVEMBER 30, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WARIS SENTENCED, FINED \$2,000 FOR LYING TO FBI AGENTS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jackson County, Mo., official was sentenced in federal court today for making a material false statement to FBI agents.

William F. “Bill” Waris, 61, of Kansas City, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon to three of years of probation and ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine.

“The justice system was vindicated today,” Graves said. “Every citizen has a legal obligation to cooperate fully and honestly with any law enforcement investigation. When a former elected official lies to federal agents, he must be held accountable.”

On July 2, 2005, **Waris** pleaded guilty to making a material false statement to FBI agents. **Waris**, a former county executive, is a lobbyist for Jackson County.

Waris admitted that he made a material false statement to FBI agents on March 12, 2004, in connection with an investigation into theft or bribery by an official with the Jackson County government related to programs receiving federal funds. **Waris** told the agents, falsely, that he was not present during a conference call between that Jackson County official and others which occurred on Oct. 6, 2003. In fact, Graves said, **Waris** knew his statement was false and that he was present during the conference call.

“Today’s sentence was anticipated in the plea agreement,” Graves added, “and falls within the federal sentencing guidelines. I’m satisfied that the court sent a clear message that whether being interviewed by federal agents or testifying before a grand jury, you have to tell the truth.”

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners and Deputy U.S. Attorney Matt Whitworth. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow